

Report from Chinook Winds Region

Newsletter: May 1, 2019

By Helen Reed

Your Chinook Winds Regional Commission met via Zoom in March and April. Our main focus has been to support and create structures that will allow effective responses to the Pastoral Relations, Property and Land Titles, Fiscal Accountability and Community Support needs in our Region.

At times, it may feel as though we are getting slowed down by bureaucracy again instead of looking toward the Mission of our Church, but the reality is that if we don't have these pieces in place we cannot effectively support healthy Communities of Faith so that they are able to be God's work as the church.

Our processes are already getting smoother and working groups have been established. We are grateful for the work of our staff and volunteers that are creating this solid grounding for us.

We continue to be blessed with your questions that help us to know what you need to hear. Here are some responses:

When will the Region tell us how to form Networks or Cluster groups?

We won't tell you that because you do not need the Region to tell you what you are passionate about... but we will encourage you to connect with like-minded folk to create Networks and Clusters which are partnerships born from a passion to grow faith connections and to work together.

In January 2019, In their Governance model, GC said:

Clusters and Networks Clusters and networks are not governance bodies and may have a relationship with any of the church courts: communities of faith, regional councils, or General Council

- *Clusters: clusters of communities of faith that focus on worship, mission, learning, collegiality, and strategic planning*
- *Networks: link people working on specific issues or for project work.*

There is a link available to help further clarify what Networks and Clusters are:

<https://www.united-church.ca/news/clarity-clusters-and-networks>

Go and find your partners... you can connect with folk through the Region's Newsletter or Facebook page.

Decide what your goal will be and how you hope to achieve it.

It is exciting to see that we already have Networks emerging: the UCW, Intercultural Relations. There has also been interest in creating Networks to support LGBTQ, and to support Healing Pathways.

While Networks and Clusters are to be self supporting, the Region does have funding available to support events that are accessible to Region members.

Currently this is available on a first-come-first-served basis.

Send your proposals to Chinookwinds@united-church.ca.

What do we do with our Annual Reports?

1. Keep copies in your files. If the Region staff need them, they will ask you for them.
2. Send a printed copy to the Archives: The Provincial Archives of Alberta
8555 Roper Road NW, Edmonton, Alberta T6E 5W1

Where is a Sunday Supply list?

While certain Presbyteries used to create such a list, this is not a task that the Region will probably be picking up. This would be an amazing Cluster task... talk to your neighbours. What options have they used? There are resources available to use for services that Lay people can lead.

Use the Region's Facebook page to ask questions and share your successes.

How do we know what is going on?

Currently, the best way to keep up with what we are doing is to subscribe to our E- Newsletter email list. Go to the website:

<https://albertanorthwestconference.ca/>

to subscribe. Everyone who is part of our Region is encouraged to join us.

How do I share my event news, or contact others in the Region?

Our best tools to connect right now are the Newsletter and the Facebook page.

1. If you have an event or news you would like to share with the Region, please check the blue box in the E-Newsletter that tells you how send us your information. Please, remember to include the City/Town/Village that your event is located in.
2. Our Facebook page can share information too, or be a forum for discussions.

Please continue to send us your questions and concerns.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement on this new journey that we are travelling together.

Helen Reed, Chair of the Chinook Winds Regional Commission.

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Next Commission Meeting:

Our next meeting will be on May 14 & 15 in Okotoks.

Commissioners: Helen Reed (chair), Tammy Allan, Bob Wallace, Ray Goodship, Sue Brodrick, Kathy Yamashita, Russel Burns, Darrel Beaver. Doug Goodwin (Executive Minister)

Chinook Winds Region
1st General Meeting
June 7, 8, 2019, Lethbridge

Our first meeting together as a Region is getting nearer... it is an exciting and exhausting time for our planners!

Why only two days?

We received responses that indicated many clergy wanted to be home for their Pentecost worship on June 9th so we are making space for that to happen.

**We need you to do some work
to help us ensure that this is a smooth and fun time together.**

Register!

All Ministers and Regional Representatives are expected to attend our General Meeting but we need you to register so that we can plan our space and food for you.

Reports

We are inviting Networks, Clusters, Camps, Chaplaincies, UCC Colleges, Being Good Relations, Intercultural Ministries etc., to share their 2018 news and 2019 plans with us in informational reports. These would be shared in an electronic package with all attendees at our Gathering and will be a great way to let us know how you are doing. Please have your reports in to us by May15th. Send them to Chinookwinds@united-church.ca.

Think about...

Being on the Region's Executive:

We will be asking for applications from folk who would like to be considered for this task. Following a similar process to that of General Council, we will have a Nominating Committee that will bring forth a slate of names for consideration at the General Meeting.

We feel that it is very important to have an Executive that has the skills and diversity that will be necessary to guide us further into our identity, our vision, our mission as a Region.

An application form will be available through our Newsletter soon.

Hosting our next gathering in 2020:

We are already looking for a host for our 2020 gathering. This would be a three day meeting. Do you think your community could host us?